

A
SERIOUS and EARNEST
ADDRESS,
TO THE
Subscribers to the BALLS,
And OTHER PERSONS
Frequenting the Rooms at *Bath*;
CONCERNING THE
Present Situation of Affairs.

Quo, Quo Scelesti, Ruitis ? HOR.

B A T H :

Printed by C. POPE, in St. *James's-Street*.

M.DCC.LXVII.

[Price SIX-PENCE.]

1608/2623.





A

SERIOUS and EARNEST
ADDRESS, &c.

*Omni Potestate ad unum conferri
Pacis interfuit. TACITUS.*

THE present crisis of affairs in this distracted state, is of so extraordinary and alarming a nature, that I can no longer forbear communicating to my fellow-citizens my thoughts on a subject, wherein not we alone may be interested, but also our successors, and our descendants even unto the latest posterity.

Behold, my friends, what is now intended, attempted, openly avow'd! Nothing less than the total subversion of our constitution, and the establishment of a new one on the ruins thereof. And what is to be the form of this new constitution? an Aristocracy; the most

A 2

pernicious

pernicious to liberty of any system of government ever yet contrived ; of which you may be fully convinced by the writings of all authors on the subject, and the examples of all countries and ages. I am not ignorant that a decree in favour of the new proposed government has been obtain'd from the illustrious Judge of a high court of judicature, whose province it is to redress grievances, and supply the defects of the law ; but as I have lately heard it suggested, that the very respectable personage here alluded to, begins to apprehend that his decision was premature, and that he even wishes this cause may have a final determination in the last resort ; and as that decree is in direct contradiction with the unanimous act of the general assembly, held here in the month of March last ;* I appeal therefrom to a full convention of the states, to be held in due time and place ; and I earnestly exhort you, my friends and fellow-citizens, to follow my example, while yet you have the power to do it. I say while yet you have the power

* On the 13th day of March last, in the morning, there was a very numerous meeting of the Nobility and Gentry, subscribers to the Rooms and Balls ; when they unanimously came to the following resolution, viz. *That Mr. DERRICK, as MASTER of the CEREMONIES, be invested with full power to regulate the band of music in the Ball and Pump Rooms ; and to superintend the public amusements in the Assembly-Rooms of the city of Bath, according to the regulations of his predecessor Mr. NASH.*



power to do it ; for should the intended Aristocracy be once establish'd, it may then become dangerous even to discourse on the nature of our government.

Many of you, no doubt, have read of the two strangers at Venice, who were overheard in argument on matters concerning the state, and the nature of the constitution, which one of them highly extoll'd, and the other as freely censured. He who had so liberally applauded the form of government in that Aristocracy, was, to his great astonishment, carried forcibly the next morning before the magistrates ; who having shewn him the dead body of his friend, bid him beware of the like fate ; telling him that, altho' they knew he had argued in favour of their government, yet he was to learn that they wanted not the support of licentious tongues : They bid him begone, and for the future, upon pain of death, not to meddle with any question whatsoever concerning the state.

* Without looking back to the remote Ages of the Grecian and Roman states, I could shew you instances without number, of the evils that

* I am amazed that our author has not thought fit to expatiate on the Roman Decemvirate, which would have afforded him most excellent arguments. He might have very clearly demonstrated that the system proposed to us is worse than the Decemvirate, in the exact proportion of thirteen to ten.

that have resulted from too great a share of power in the hands of the Grandees; but I shall mention only one more to you, and that so wonderfully suited in every circumstance to my present purpose, that I should fear the imputation of having invented it, if I did not know that the history of Denmark now lies in Mr. Leake's Shop; where such of you as are unacquainted with the annals of that nation, may have an opportunity of verifying the fact which I am now going to relate.

In the constitution of Denmark, about a hundred years ago, more or less, for I have not the history by me, the regal authority was confined within very narrow limits, and the nobles possessed almost the whole power of the state; of which they made so great an abuse, that the people, no longer able to bear their oppressions, made a full and voluntary surrender of their rights and privileges into the hands of the prince then reigning; desiring to be govern'd by his will and pleasure alone.—The application is easy and obvious; for the system proposed to us exactly resembles the constitution of Denmark at the period I have mentioned; from whence, I make no doubt, our grandees have borrowed the idea. And is there not the most evident danger, should the intended Aristocracy take place among us, that we shall be reduced to the dreadful alternative, either of patiently bearing the oppression and tyranny of the few, or of submitting ourselves

ourselves, (and in such circumstances only we can be necessitated to submit ourselves) like the Danes, to the absolute will and pleasure of a Master of the Ceremonies, *not subject to any controul whatsoever?*

I know it has been urged that no danger can arise to the public liberties, by investing with full powers the gentlemen intended to compose this Aristocracy. It is said that they are men of wisdom, virtue, and public spirit; that they are moreover men of fortune, and all, or most of them, constant residents within the precincts of this city; to the increase and embellishment whereof, some of them have largely contributed. The more dangerous, the more dangerous, my friends, must such an Aristocracy necessarily prove; for every one of these circumstances will tend to increase their influence, and to establish their power: and should the great enemy of mankind at last pervert their hearts, and swell them with the inordinate lust of dominion, what may not then be the dismal consequences! Who will then dare, at his own hazard, and with scarce a hope of the public good, to incur the indignation of thirteen tyrants, with all their numerous train of connexions and dependencies? and where shall be found the man bold enough to stand forth and say, I like not our government, nor our governors? Think, O think on the strangers at Venice, and guard against, while yet you may, their fate.

But

But you are already convinced, my friends, and fellow-citizens, of the innumerable evils attending an Aristocracy: I shall now proceed to offer you a few arguments tending to the support of our present constitution, and the Monarch whom we have voluntarily chosen to reign over us. I shall also refute, as they occur to me, the several objections that I have heard made, with any degree of plausibility, against either.

That revolutions are sometimes expedient, nay even necessary to the general welfare, I shall most freely allow; as for example that of Eighty-eight: but that in this our state, we at present stand in need of such another, I as heartily deny. We are threatened, it is said, with arbitrary power, and with slavery, the certain consequence thereof; but 'till I see more sufficient grounds for the accusation, I shall never give my voice for overturning our constitution, and endangering our liberties, on such vague and idle declamations: And I am the more strongly moved to oppose all innovations, because I do not find that even the most malignant enemies of our Prince, have yet dared to charge him with any attempt to introduce Popery,* brass money, or wooden Shoes.

* This whole passage alludes to a favourite toast in a neighbouring kingdom, viz. "The glorious and immortal memory of the great King William, who deliver'd us from Popery, Slavery, Arbitrary Power, Brass Money, and Wooden Shoes."

shoes. I am even assured that to the two last articles he has a particular abhorrence.

As to arbitrary power on his part, it by no means follows that slavery must be the necessary consequence thereof on ours. As he was elected, so he may be deposed at pleasure, whenever he shall be found to betray the trust we have reposed in him : for he does not claim, that I have yet heard of, an indefeasible, divine, hereditary right to reign over us ; nor has he the disposal of such honours and employments as may ensure him at all times a powerful party in the state ; neither does it appear that he intends to maintain his despotism by the assistance of a standing army : although, as to this last circumstance, it has been maliciously rumoured that there is at present a very considerable number of his countrymen dispersed throughout this city, who are always ready to rise, and incorporate on the shortest notice ; but I must here declare, in justice to the gentlemen of that nation, with many of whom I have had a long and intimate acquaintance, that I have ever known them to be true friends to liberty, promoters of good society and propagation, and at all times ready to stand up for the credit of their country, and the service of the fair and amiable part of the creation.

Our ancestors, wisely considering their peculiar circumstances, acknowledged that a

B

govern-

government consisting only of a supreme magistrate, invested with absolute power, but subject at all times to account for his conduct to a general assembly, and to be controuled, or deposed thereby, was the most eligible form, that the nature and situation of our state could possibly admit of. They accordingly, with great chearfulness and harmony, submitted themselves to be governed by Nash the great ; and I cannot learn, either from history, or tradition, that any general dissatisfaction prevailed at any time during the reign of that Prince ; or that there were any turbulent attempts, like the present, made to overturn his government, or alter the principles of the constitution. He died full of honours as of years, after having created, improved, and established this monarchy, according to the most perfect model that the wit of man could devise for us. I cannot dismiss this great man without observing the very remarkable resemblance between his life and actions, and those of Peter the first of Moscovy.

If it should be objected, that our present Prince has not all the great and shining qualities of his illustrious predecessor ; I answer, where will you find another, *deliciæ humani generis* ? If he has foibles, which of us, alas ! is without them ? If he has sometimes erred thro' inadvertency or passion, *humanum est errare*. Let us not search with too severe a scrutiny for his faults, if it shall appear, that his
general

general conduct has tended, upon the whole, to the public satisfaction ; that he has ever been ready to acknowledge and atone for his errors ; that he has constantly attended in person all constitutional assemblies, and administered strict justice therein ; that he has always shewn a proper regard for the nobility who frequent his court, distinguishing them, without partiality, according to their several ranks and abilities ; that he is even frequently known to call forth into his service such other of his subjects as have talents worthy of the public eye, and who desire to be on a good footing, and to move in a becoming sphere : and lastly, that he has ever persisted in refusing to load us with unnecessary taxes ; generously choosing to rely, for the support of his government, on the voluntary aids and contributions of his subjects. These are his merits ; and surely these entitle him to your warmest gratitude and support : but there is one argument more which I must mention, tho' with reluctance, through the apprehension of offending the delicacy of my sovereign. It is well known that the amassing of treasures he has always magnanimously disdained ; and should he, by the malice of his enemies, be deprived of his high dignity and royal revenues, it is to be feared that, after his long enjoyment of imperial state, he might not be so qualified for any other station in life, as to acquire therein a competent, and decent support ; and such as might enable him to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*. Let me whif-

per this argument to you, my friends, not to your heads, but to your hearts ; and such of you as have hearts must feel the force of it.

Among the many objections that I have heard made against our Prince, his deficiency of stature has always appear'd to me the most considerable ; and I must confess that it is urged, not without some colour of reason, that he is incapacitated thereby from discharging the high duties of his office, with a proper degree of circumspection. It cannot be doubted that it nature, when she set his parents to work, had foreseen that a Monarch was to be the result, she would have order'd matters so as to furnish, in the fulness of time, a figure of becoming dignity, and of at least six geometrical feet in perpendicular altitude ; but as I know not of any operation, whether of nature, or of art, whereby he can be begotten over again* or even sufficiently lengthened out, without injury to the proportions of his person ; I shall here offer a succedaneum for supplying this defect ; which I mean to communicate freely for the public good, not desiring any reward ; although I am fully satisfied that, in a hundred years hence, it will be found of as great general utility, as the late discoveries of the longitude.

Give

* Our author seems here to have forgotten a very celebrated treatise on this subject.—Vide Paracelsum de Generatione & Regeneratione. Vol. 2, Chap. 29. Leyden Edition, anno 1651.

Give me leave to introduce my succedaneum by a short story.

When I made the tour of Europe, some years ago, with a young nobleman ; as we travelled in the dusk of an evening over a large, and very level plain, in the south of France, we beheld, to our great astonishment and dismay, at some distance, three or four apparitions, moving towards us, shaped indeed and habited like men, but walking in the air, at about four feet above the level of the ground beneath them. My lord, with much trepidation, called to the postillions to turn about ; and I must confess I was not much inclined to oppose his lordship's motion : but they, guessing at the cause of our alarm, explained to us, with the help of my lord's valet-de-chambre, who spoke Gascon, that the apparitions were nothing more than shepherds walking upon stilts ; and that because the plain was a perfect level, they used these helps, that by the elevation they thereby acquired, they might be enabled to distinguish their flocks at a greater distance. My lord, having recovered his fright, was so much pleased with the contrivance, that he immediately bought a pair ; and applied himself to the use thereof with so much assiduity, that, in less than three months time, he had made so great a proficiency, there was not a young nobleman in France could walk upon stilts with a better grace. It happened most unfortunately on our return to England, that his valet-dè-chambre

chambre made use of one of them at Calais, the weather being then very cold, to light a fire ; presuming his lord would not have occasion for them at sea, and not doubting that he might be easily supplied at Dover. On our landing, my lord immediately called for his stilts, as he was desirous to make a public entry into that town, in a manner becoming his rank and talents ; and to give an early specimen to his countrymen of the improvement and acquisitions he had made in his travels : but judge of his concern and surprize when he learned that one only was to be found. He had never practised hopping upon one stilt ; what then could be done in the present emergency ? he was at last, to his great mortification, reduced to the necessity of walking from the quay to our inn, like other men, upon his feet. I have often since endeavoured to persuade his lordship that proper timber might probably be found in Britain ; and also artists capable, with sufficient instructions, of making him nearly as good a one as that which he had lost : but he as constantly declared, with the utmost vehemence, that no power upon earth should ever oblige him to make use of stilts that were not of the true French cut. To this obstinacy of his lordship, if I may dare to call it so, I have always imputed his not making so conspicuous a figure in a certain august assembly, as I am certain he must otherwise have done.

I know it will be said, that I shall not be the
first

first introducer of the use of stilts into England; and that there are many persons now in these kingdoms, who, by the help of a certain improved kind of invisible ones, stride over, or kick down, all those who they see above them, or before them, in their walks; whether in the army, the law, the church, or the state: but this is an assertion to which I shall never give an entire belief, till I see it fully demonstrated.

I hope my story will not be deem'd a digression; for I thought it a proper, and even a necessary introduction, to the advice I now humbly offer to our Monarch; that he will for the future be graciously pleased to employ this most excellent supplement to his natural brevity of stature, with the assistance whereof he may

Bestride this narrow world
Like a Colossus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs.

Exalted as he will then be over all our heads, there will scarcely, I hope, be found any among his subjects, daring enough to dispute his right to præminence and superintendency over us.

The only difficulties that remain, lie, first, in the want of Stilts; and afterwards, if they were to be had, in our Sovereign's want of skill as to their proper use and exercise: but these two objections I will undertake, with great ease, to obviate. As to their proper use, I will take
upon

upon me to be his instructor; having sometimes practised thereon myself, while my Lord was engaged in his other studies; and then as to the procuring Stilts fit for the royal use, I make no doubt that we have artists here, of sufficient skill to execute them to his Majesty's satisfaction, after a drawing which I hope to obtain, to be taken from the remaining French Stilt, where it is now deposited, in the Museum.

And now, my friends, and fellow-citizens, I have laid before you the many evils and dangers of an Aristocracy: I have clearly, I hope, demonstrated the great advantages to us of a Monarchical Government, subject at stated seasons to the public revision and controul; and I flatter myself I have fully refuted every weighty objection that has hitherto been made against the Sovereign whom we have chosen to reign over us. Let us then join, with chearfulness and unanimity, in his support: and since his very existence, as a Monarch, depends upon our favour, his inclination must constantly co-operate with his duty, in exerting his utmost endeavours for the public satisfaction. But should he, on any future occasion, dare to pervert the powers with which we have invested him, to injure the properties, the liberties, or the lives of my fellow-citizens; O may another Brutus start forth to be the deliverer of his country! may his chief musician pierce him to the heart with a fiddle-stick! or his

his premier friseur, with a powdering engine,
blow out his desperate brains.

Perhaps I may again address you, if I should
think myself call'd upon by the exigency of
affairs. In the interim I shall be happy, if my
weak endeavours may in the least have con-
tributed to the support of tottering Majesty,
the maintenance of constitutional liberty, and
the re-establishment of peace and harmony
among us.

*Æquam memento rebus in arduis
Servare mentem; non secus in bonis
Ab insolenti temperatam
Lætitia, moriture Derrick.*





POSTSCRIPT.

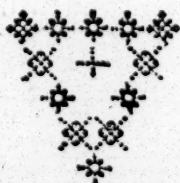
THE writer of the foregoing trifle, having heard the subject of it debated in several companies of late, with much warmth and earnestness; thought that, if the whole matter were offer'd to the public view in a ludicrous light, the only one which it seems to deserve, it might probably not be unacceptable; and if, in what he has scribbled with that intention, there should not be found any thing that may excite a smile, he frankly acknowledges that the fault lies, not in the subject, but in the manner of treating it. He had it also in view to express his opinion, that the long establish'd mode of regulating the amusements at Bath, is preferable to the regulations lately proposed; from whence inconveniencies might probably result, in consequence of making the Master of the Ceremonies subject to any other controul, but that of a majority of the subscribers to the balls; to which he ever has been, and ever must be, amenable.

The

The Writer flatters himself that his attention to avoid all possibility of giving even the slightest offence, is sufficiently evident: and if it were not a sort of profanation of the works of one of our most excellent poets, he would desire leave to express his own sentiments in the following admirable lines of Mr. Pope; as far as they are applicable to his purpose.

Curst be the verse, how well foe'er it flow,
That tends to make one worthy man my foe;
Give virtue scandal, innocence a fear,
Or from the soft-ey'd virgin steal a tear.

F I N I S.



The White House has been the scene of a
to avoid all possibility of a collision with the
lighted off the water and the ship was
it was not a loss of time as the ship was
of one of our most famous men, the world
there have to expect that the ship will
the following day, and the ship will
as for the ship, and the ship will

On the 1st of May, the ship was
The ship was to be in the water
The ship was to be in the water
On the 1st of May, the ship was



